

# The American Observer

*A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe*

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## Courteous Acts

By Walter E. Myer

I OFTEN think of an experience I had several years ago when I was traveling by plane through the South. Late one evening I landed at the New Orleans airport. While I was waiting for a taxi two men whom I had never seen before came up to me, said they were going down town and asked if they might take me along.

This in itself was a thoughtful act. They could so easily have driven away without feeling any responsibility for a stranger waiting for transportation. That is what most people would have done. But their courtesy did not stop at that point.

These men, it appeared, were partners. One of them had been away, and they had business matters to discuss. They did not wish, however, to leave me out of the conversation, so they explained the subject of their discussion, and frequently directed remarks to me.

They went out of their way to take me to my hotel, but did not say goodbye at the door. One of them went in with me and stood by until he was satisfied that a room was being held for me and that I would be comfortably cared for.

Why were these men, whom I had not seen before and have not seen or heard from since, so hospitable? They had nothing whatever to gain by their hospitality. The only explanation is that courtesy had become a habit with them, so ingrained in their natures that it was easier for them to be friendly than indifferent. Their reward was the pleasurable feeling that comes from acts of kindness and consideration.

The courtesy which I encountered at the gates of the city made my entire visit more pleasant, and to this day I have a friendlier feeling for New Orleans than I might otherwise have.

What a different world this would be if all of us, young and old, should make courtesy a part of our lives, a guide to our conduct! What a fine thing it would be if we should think more about the other fellow, and if we should more often go out of our way to do things for others! Friendliness, thoughtfulness, helpfulness in the home, at school, on the streets, in all our contacts; that is what we need more than almost anything else. We should realize that one will get farther on the road to happiness if he has company than if he travels alone.

Every day of the year there are occasions for generous, thoughtful acts. Well placed, friendly deeds or words on all such occasions will serve a double purpose. They will brighten the pathway of the giver as well as the receiver. Such courtesies will leave pleasantly remembered moments in their train. They will add immeasurably to the sum total of human happiness.

We are busy, of course, and tend to become absorbed with our own affairs. That is not an excuse, however, for incivility. "Life is not so short," said Ralph Waldo Emerson, "but that there is always time enough for courtesy."



Walter E. Myer



Face to Face

HERBLOCK IN WASHINGTON POST

## U. S. Foreign Policy

Writers and Political Leaders Differ in Their Reaction to Truman's Plan for Our Role in World Affairs

SINCE President Truman delivered his history-making address on Greece to Congress, there has been widespread discussion of the issues involved by editors, columnists, radio commentators, and leaders of political thought. It is important that all Americans should study these differing points of view. In this article, therefore, we shall summarize the opinions of well-known newspapers, writers, and public leaders.

Certain of these views support the President's program of aid to Greece and Turkey; others sharply oppose this program, while some of them take middle ground, approving certain features of the Truman policy and criticizing other parts of it.

It should be understood that opinions expressed in this article are neither supported nor opposed by THE AMERICAN OBSERVER. Our purpose is to place conflicting points of view before our readers, who must make up their minds in the light of evidence and argument. It will not be easy for one to come to decisions on such complex issues, but in a democracy there is no other course to follow.

The Washington Post. The Truman doctrine, as set forth in the President's message to Congress, is an outgrowth of the Monroe Doctrine, which was stated in 1823. President Monroe declared that the United States would not interfere with any colonies which

the European nations already held at that time in the Western Hemisphere.

He added, however, that this country would not allow these nations to extend their colonial systems over here. It would not permit them to conquer the independent countries of the Western Hemisphere. Monroe felt the United States would be in danger if any of the nations of Europe should go farther than they had gone and should forcibly rob Western Hemisphere countries of their independence.

That is what President Truman now says, only he covers more ground. He wants the United States to stop aggression, not only in this Hemisphere, but elsewhere in the world. In this atomic age, aggression against any nation is a threat to independence and freedom everywhere.

"Consequently our government is saying that we shall extend a helping hand to free peoples anywhere if they need help in resisting totalitarian aggression." We are doing this not only to protect the nations now threatened by attack but in order to make ourselves more secure.

Arthur Sears Henning in the Chicago Tribune. The internationalists argue that the Truman proposal is an extension of the Monroe Doctrine. They say that a century and a quarter ago, when wars were fought with wooden ships and iron cannon balls,

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## Questions Arise Over Presidency

Under Some Circumstances We Might Be Left Without A Chief Executive

EVER since President Roosevelt's death in April 1945, there has been much talk but no action concerning the problem of presidential succession. Our country has been without a Vice President during this two-year period.

The law, of course, makes it entirely clear that the Secretary of State succeeds to the White House if a Chief Executive dies at a time when there is no Vice President. There could be other emergencies connected with the presidency, however, which are not provided for by law and which might cause serious confusion and trouble.

The people of Georgia have recently had an unpleasant taste of what can happen when the laws of a state do not make clear beyond doubt who is in line for the governorship in every conceivable kind of an emergency. Bad as the situation has been there, it would be still worse if there should be doubt at any time over who should occupy the White House. If the American people are wise, they will insist that Congress act quickly to prevent such a development.

That is one problem requiring attention. Another one involves presidential succession laws which are clear enough but which many people think should be changed. For example, there is much criticism of the law which provides that the Secretary of State shall succeed to the White House if the President dies at a time when there is no Vice President.

The average citizen, if he is to understand these various issues, must have in mind the method by which, under our Constitution, the President and Vice President are elected. As most of you know, they are not chosen by a direct vote of the people, but by electors.

(Continued on page 2)



FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT was the seventh U. S. President to die in office



# Presidency

(Continued from page 1)

Each state chooses as many electors as it has senators and representatives in Congress. Since the states together have 96 senators and 435 members of the House of Representatives, the number of electors is 531.

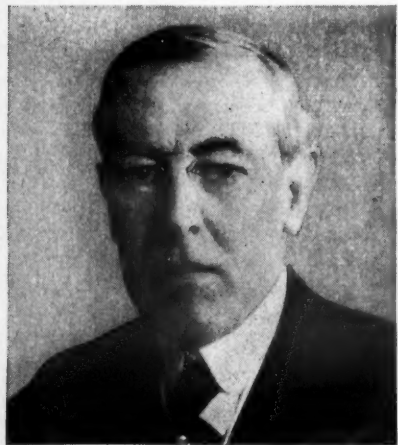
These 531 men "elect" the President and the Vice President. Legally they may vote for whomever they please, but as a matter of fact the electors chosen by each state are pledged to vote for the presidential and vice presidential candidates who received the most votes in their state in the November elections.

After the election of November 1944, for example, people said, "Roosevelt is elected." What they really meant was, "A majority of the 531 men who will elect the President are pledged to vote for Roosevelt, so we know that he will be elected."

With these facts in mind, we may inquire what would happen under certain emergency conditions.

1. What would happen if a candidate who had been nominated for the presidency by the Republican or Democratic party should die before the November election?

If the vacancy on the ticket occurred early in the campaign, the party which had lost its candidate would probably call the national convention back into session to nominate another man. If the vacancy came late in the campaign so that there would not be much time to provide for a convention, the national committee of the party would have to name a candidate.



WOODROW WILSON'S illness during the latter part of his second term seriously interfered with the execution of his presidential duties.

2. Suppose a candidate should die after the November election, but before the electors had officially chosen a President. The procedure would be similar to that described under question one. The national committee of the party to which the deceased candidate belonged would name a man to fill his place. If, for example, the candidate who died was a Republican, the Republican National Committee would choose another candidate. The Republican electors who had been elected in November would then be under obligation to cast their ballots for the man whom the national committee had named. These electors would not be legally bound to accept a substitute candidate, but they would almost certainly do so.

3. Consider such a situation as this: The electors have cast their ballots; a President and Vice President have



HOUSE SPEAKER Joseph Martin (left) would be next in line for the Presidency, if Truman's plan for succession were adopted. Under the present arrangement, Secretary of State George Marshall would succeed to the White House if anything should happen to President Truman.

been officially elected; but the President-elect dies before taking office. The 20th amendment to the Constitution provides for such an emergency. It states that the man who has been elected to the Vice Presidency shall become President.

4. Another possibility: The electors have acted; they have chosen a President and Vice President. Before inauguration day (January 20) both these men die. This may seem to be a situation which would never occur, but in the case of an organized assassination plot such a thing might happen.

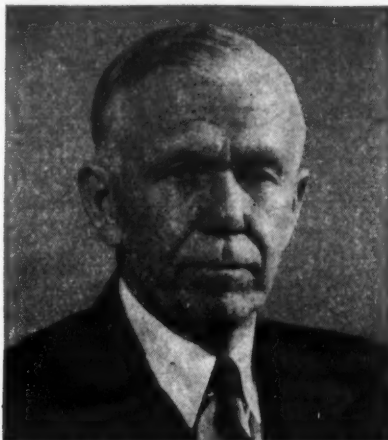
The 20th amendment declares that Congress may, by law, provide for such a case. But Congress has taken no action. As former Postmaster General James A. Farley puts it, "If the President-elect and Vice President-elect should both die before January 20, there is now no provision either in the Constitution or in the federal laws which would provide for a successor to the highest office in the land."

Congress could, of course, take action after the emergency arose, for it meets on January 3, and inauguration day is January 20. But, as Mr. Farley points out, Congress might be closely divided so that a deadlock would result. A decision might not be made before January 20. "The appalling result," says Mr. Farley, "would be that from January 20 until such time as the deadlock was broken, this country would be without a chief executive."

5. We now come to the procedures involved if a President should die in office, or if there should be a vacancy in the presidency for other reasons. The Constitution states that "in the case of the removal of the President from office or of his death, resignation, or inability to discharge the duties and responsibilities of the said office, the same shall devolve on the Vice President." If, however, a vacancy in the presidency occurs at a time when there is no Vice President, Congress has the power to decide how a new Chief Executive is to be chosen.

This gives a great deal of power to Congress, for 15 times during our national history we have been without a Vice President. On seven occasions this office has been left vacant when Vice Presidents moved into the White House after the death of Presidents. Seven other Vice Presidents have died in office, and one (John C. Calhoun) resigned.

Congress has, by law, settled the question of who is to become Chief Executive if the presidency becomes



PHOTOS BY HARRIS & EWING

vacant at a time when there is no Vice President. First in line is the Secretary of State. If he should fail to qualify or should later die or be removed from office, the presidency would fall to other cabinet officers in this order: Secretary of the Treasury, Secretary of War, Attorney-General, Postmaster General, Secretary of the Navy, and Secretary of the Interior.

Is this plan of providing for successors to the presidency a good one?

President Truman does not like the plan. He thinks that cabinet members should not be first in line for the presidency in case there is a vacancy in the offices of President and Vice President. He calls attention to the fact that the Secretary of State and other cabinet members are appointed by the President. So long as they are in line for the presidency, the President actually has the power to determine who his successors shall be.

Mr. Truman thinks that this is not a desirable situation. He says that only officials who are elected to office, rather than those who are appointed, should be in line for the presidency. He recommends that, if something should happen to both the President and Vice President, the Speaker of the House of Representatives should

become the Chief Executive. If there should then be another vacancy, the position should go to the President *pro tempore* of the Senate.

The supporters of this plan agree with Truman that it would be more democratic than the present system. They point out that the presiding officers of the House and Senate are chosen for their posts by the majority of Representatives and Senators from all over the country, so they have a wider basis of popular support than a cabinet officer is likely to have.

It is argued further that the Speaker of the House and the President *pro tempore* of the Senate are experienced in everyday politics, whereas cabinet members frequently are not. In most cases, it is said, the leaders of the national legislature would be better qualified than cabinet members for the presidency.

A number of arguments on the other side are advanced. Among them are these: "Our Secretaries of State have, on the whole, been more distinguished and capable public leaders than presiding officers of the Senate and House have been."

"Furthermore, it often happens that the Speaker of the House and the President *pro tempore* of the Senate do not belong to the same party that the President does (this is the case now). If one of these officers should succeed to the presidency, the party which had held this post would lose it. When the people of the nation, by their votes, put a certain party in control of the presidency, that same party should continue to occupy the White House during the four-year period for which the President is elected."

Another plan for solving the presidential succession problem is widely supported. It provides that when something happens to both the President and Vice President, a national election should be called to choose a new Chief Executive. It is contended that this is the fairest and most democratic way.

(Concluded on page 3, column 4)

## SMILES

Junior: "Dad, what is a rare volume?"  
Dad: "It's a book you have loaned that is returned to you."

★ ★ ★

A Vermont farmer was plowing a field with one horse, but he was yelling "Giddap, Jack. Giddap, Jerry. Giddap, Casey. Giddap, Cromwell."

A stranger passing by asked, "How many names does your horse have?"  
"Oh," said the farmer, "his name is Jack, but he doesn't know his own strength. So I put blinders on him and yell all those other names. He thinks he has other horses helping him."

★ ★ ★

The sweet young thing was talking over public problems, and expressed her approval of the United Nations.

"I think," said she, "it is a very good thing, but it seems a pity to have so many foreigners in it!"

★ ★ ★

The train was one of those cross-country affairs that stop at every station and frequently several times in between.

Toward the end of a very long journey the conductor came around the cars.

"Look here, sir," he said to one of the passengers as he examined his ticket, "that boy is too big to travel half fare."  
"Is he really?" replied the passenger quietly. "Well, he was small enough when we started."

A senator, returning to Washington by plane after a brief speaking tour, jumped out of his seat when the plane was about to land and yelled:

"Ouch, there must be a tack in this seat!"

"That was no tack," replied the stewardess. "We're flying low and that was the Washington Monument."

★ ★ ★

Eye Doctor: "Read the fourth line on the chart."

Patient: "Read it! Why, I know the guy personally. He used to play football at Fordham."



"We don't just titter and say, 'Well, accidents will happen,' Purvis!"



# What Are Our Democratic Rights?

*Individual Liberties and General Welfare Must Be Kept in Balance*

ON every hand we hear people talking of their "rights." Workers insist upon maintaining the "right" to strike at any time they feel it necessary to gain better laboring conditions. Employers demand the "right" to run their businesses as they see fit, free from outside interference. Other groups of the population also frequently refer to their "rights and privileges."

What is a "right," and how is it obtained? The magazine *Atlantic* recently discussed this question in a thoughtful article entitled "The Right To Strike," written by Richard E. Danielson, President of the Atlantic Monthly Company.

Mr. Danielson argues that what we commonly call "rights" are really privileges which society gives to individuals. You may say, for example, that you have a right to an education. What you really mean is that the people, acting through state and local governments, have decided to give you a certain amount of schooling. As the *Atlantic* article puts it, "The public assumes that its future condition will be happier if you are literate than if you are not. Therefore it consents to pay the bills for your education."

## Society Limits Rights

Where, then, do you get your rights? You get them from the public, from people generally, from governments. And the public does not concede that you have a right to do anything that benefits only yourself and that is harmful to the majority of other people.

As a matter of fact society, or the public, is always placing limits on what individuals may do. No right is absolute. The most precious and jealously guarded of all rights is the right to life. But even that is not unconditional. Society gives people the privilege of living on the condition that they do not violate certain laws. If one is convicted of murder, treason, or any other capital offense, the public may decree that his life shall be taken away.

Next to life, liberty is our most cherished possession. We want to go about doing as we please and we may say that we have a right to do this. In fact, we are more free from restraints in this country than people are in most other parts of the world.

But even here there are limits to our freedom of action. If, for example, we choose to do something which is against the law we may be put into prison, and our liberty ends completely during the term for which we are confined.

There are limits on the prized right to hold property. For example, you have a right to your own home, but not an absolute right. If you set fire to it and burn it down, you may be thrown into jail. Furthermore, if the state decides that it needs the site upon which your home is built for public purposes, such as for the construction of a public building or the construction of a street or road, it may pay you for the house and take it away from you.

The state can take this action by the so-called right of "eminent domain." It has the authority to buy land needed for any public purpose. The state also has the power to levy

taxes, and when it places a tax upon you, it is in reality taking away a part of your property in order to pay the expenses of government.

A man has a right to engage in business, but this privilege is hedged about with restrictions. One may engage in business only if what he chooses to do is not harmful to the interests of the public. For example, one may not carry on the business of making or selling certain dangerous drugs. In some states people are denied the right to manufacture or sell alcoholic liquors. Literally hundreds

and their limits, certain facts become clear. A right is a privilege which the public permits individuals, and groups of individuals, to enjoy.

In America the public has been generous in bestowing rights upon individuals and groups. The Constitution of the United States is liberal in this respect. It guarantees to the people many privileges which are denied in most parts of the world. Our national, state, and local governments have placed great emphasis upon individual liberty. There are fewer limitations upon the right to life, liberty,

Most Americans are determined that the United States shall not follow this trend; that our country must be kept free. Hence they hold that we should be cautious about withdrawing rights or privileges which individuals and groups have enjoyed. Only by exercising restraint, it is argued, can we hold to the paths of freedom and avoid the road to totalitarianism.

At the same time it is recognized that the national welfare and the common good must be protected. Individuals and groups must not be allowed to take action which would weaken the nation and would be harmful to the mass of the population. They cannot be permitted to injure the public on the ground that they have a "right" to do so.

This principle applies to many of the disputes over labor legislation. A number of bills limiting the right of unions to strike are now before Congress. Some of these measures would greatly restrict the calling of strikes by government employees and workers in essential industries.

Congress may be expected to consider these measures from the standpoint of the public interest, remembering, of course, that workers constitute a large part of the public. Would the welfare of the people as a whole be served better by permitting the unions to retain their present legal right to strike or by limiting this right? That is the real issue.

The same issue is raised by the demands many corporations are making. They insist that certain regulations which have been imposed on them should be removed. They say these regulations violate their essential rights. The problem will be to determine how these restrictions affect the national welfare.

## Presidency

(Concluded from page 2, column 4)

Opponents of the plan say that a presidential election would throw the country into confusion. Even though there were an election, someone would have to serve as acting President until the election were held. Then, after the election, there would be still another President, and so many changes in the leadership of our nation would be disturbing.

6. Here is another serious possibility. A President may, according to the Constitution, lose the office not only by death, impeachment or resignation, but by "inability to discharge the powers and duties of the presidential office." A President, for example, may have a long continued illness, which prevents him from doing his work.

A problem of this kind has arisen twice in our history. President Garfield was shot on July 2, 1881, but did not die until September 19. During this period he was unable to perform the duties of his office. President Wilson was also ill for a long time.

Who is to decide in a given case whether a President is so incapacitated or disabled that someone else should take over the position? Neither the Constitution nor the laws of Congress give an adequate answer to that question.



SYMBOLS of our democratic liberties

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

of regulations have been imposed on business operations.

Every individual has a right to drive a car, but only on condition that he obey the traffic rules. If he violates them, his license to drive may be taken away.

In America we are proud of the freedom of speech which we enjoy. But this right is limited. We may not say whatever we please. If we make a false statement about a person, he may sue us for slander. If the false statement appears in print, he may sue for libel.

A right which has long been recognized may be abolished. The right to own slaves is an example. For many centuries this right was unquestioned, but during modern times it has been withdrawn in most parts of the world.

From all these illustrations of rights

and property than one finds in most other nations. That is what we mean when we say this is a free country.

During recent years, the world trend has been away from personal liberty. In Nazi Germany, for example, the people were denied the right to vote freely for officials. They were forbidden to speak their minds on public questions; they could not criticize the government. Business enterprises were regulated closely by the government. Workers were not allowed to form unions and to negotiate with employers about working conditions.

The Nazi government controlled the lives of individuals in many ways. So does the Russian government. Their examples have been followed in a number of countries. The trend away from individual liberty is still going on in many parts of the world today.



# The Story of the Week

## What Do You Think?

French Foreign Minister Georges Bidault wants to reduce the size of the German population. Germany, he explains, has many more people per square mile than do most of the regions surrounding her. This crowded condition gives Germany a desire for the land and resources of her neighbors, and also gives her the manpower for fighting wars to obtain those resources.

Bidault wants Britain, France, Russia, and the United States to stop people from moving into Germany from surrounding areas, and to encourage a great migration of Germans to other lands. He says that France, in spite of its recent sufferings at the hands of the Germans, would be willing to take some of them.

What would be the attitude of the United States toward such a program? Secretary of State Marshall says it goes "right to the heart of the problem" of dealing with Germany. Would this country, though, be willing to admit considerable numbers of Germans? Up to the present time, Congress has shown little inclination to relax U. S. immigration restrictions, even for the purpose of admitting "displaced persons," the homeless victims of German aggression.

## Revolt in Paraguay

As we go to press, Paraguay's civil war continues. Opponents of the government, supported by a part of the army, started fighting because of President Higinio Morinigo's failure to call a general election. They claim that Morinigo, who is frequently de-



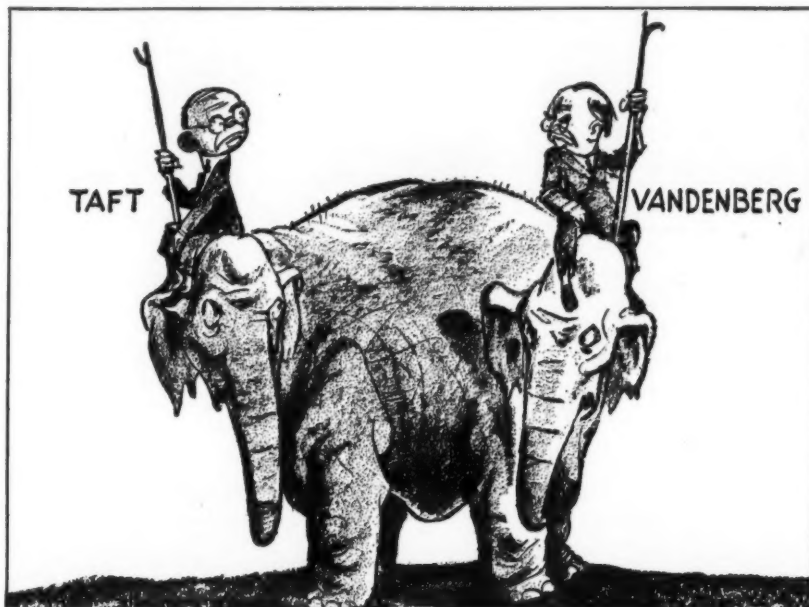
THE PARAGUAYAN President's failure to call a general election led to revolution

scribed as a dictator, promised some time ago that he would permit the people to go to the polls.

The President has announced that he will hold the election as soon as order is restored, but the rebels now seem unwilling to lay down their arms. Brazil, Paraguay's northern neighbor, has been affected by the revolt. A number of political leaders from Paraguay have fled to Brazil.

## Our Soviet Ambassador

Aiding Secretary of State Marshall at Moscow is another Army man turned diplomat—Walter Bedell Smith, United States Ambassador to Russia. Smith is a great help to Marshall, for he is an old hand at working with him. The two men were closely associated before Pearl Harbor when they were trying to build up our armed forces.



ARE TWO HEADS better than one? This cartoonist humorously portrays the division in leadership of the Republican Party

Ambassador Smith is an expert at plain talk. When faced with a problem in Soviet-American relations, his first reaction is always, "Let's ask the Russians about it." And when he does ask the Russians, he puts his questions plainly and moderately.

He has taken great pains to be well informed about the Soviet Union. Since coming to his post in Moscow, the ambassador has read great numbers of books on Russian life and thought. His interests include Soviet agriculture and the skiing lessons which he hopes will enable him to hunt moose in the Russian North. He also follows French politics and the modern American theater with great enthusiasm.

## Moscow Conference

During its first few weeks, the meeting of the Big Four Foreign Ministers in Moscow has not gone far in drafting peace treaties for Austria and Germany. The ministers have made clear, however, the main issues involved in the treaties. Here are some of the problems, with the positions taken by each of the Big Four:

**German industry.** All four nations want industry in Germany to be rebuilt, but they disagree on how much it should be allowed to expand. Russia wants German factories to be able to produce enough goods to repay her to the extent of 10 billion dollars for the damage done during the war. France does not want German industries to be too large. The United States and Britain want enough industrial production for Germany to make her self-sufficient, and they do not think Germany should be compelled to make too heavy payments for war damages.

**Saar Valley.** Great Britain and the United States support France's request for supervision of the Saar Valley. Russia wants this valuable coal and iron region to be left as a part of Germany.

**German government.** Russia wants a strong, centralized government for Germany. France wants only a loose association of German states; England and the United States stand somewhere between the two and favor a plan of government similar to ours.

These are but a few of the more important questions before the Foreign Ministers. Whether or not they can reach agreement depends upon how far their countries are willing to go in seeking a compromise. If satisfactory German and Austrian treaties are drafted at the Moscow meeting, relations among the Big Four will be more promising. If not, the international picture will be dark indeed.

## Pro Tennis League

Vincent Richards, who achieved tennis fame some years ago, and still plays a good game, is the new Commissioner of the World Professional Tennis League. Richards has been on United States Davis Cup teams, was winner of the national doubles championship many times, and holder of several Olympic titles.

The League which he now heads will, Richards says, offer the chance for the professional side of the game to put its house in order and stand before the public. Tournaments will be booked and supervised throughout the country and also abroad. The League also plans to see that players who are not yet top-flight benefit financially to a greater extent than they have in the past.

## Discouraging, If True

The re-education program in the American and British zones of occupied Germany has been "an utter failure" according to Erica Mann, authoress daughter of the Nobel Prize-Winning Novelist Thomas Mann. After touring all of Germany outside the Russian zone, Miss Mann came to the conclusion that little or no progress has been made in replacing totalitarian ideas with democratic ones.

German school children are still using Nazi text books. Miss Mann reports that the only censorship consists in pasting pieces of paper over passages considered to be propaganda. This, of course, does little good, for the children are more interested in what is under the pieces of paper than in what appears elsewhere on the page. Furthermore, teachers and parents

seem to be encouraging Nazi attitudes among the children, according to Miss Mann. Young people are taught to believe that Hitler meant homes, clothes, and prosperity, while democracy means the poverty they now endure.

This situation is partly our fault, partly not, in Miss Mann's opinion. "We have made mistakes," she says, "but even the wisest administration would have had a hard time. You simply cannot compel a nation to think and feel your way."

## Saving Forests

The first great aerial test of DDT against insects which are destroying Western lumber will be conducted this spring if Congress approves the \$600,000 needed to carry out the project. Plans are underway to spray some 350,000 acres of Douglas and white fir in Idaho by plane. Timber worth \$4,625,000 is at stake.

According to the Department of Agriculture, these trees are threatened by the Douglas fir tussock moth, which feeds on their foliage. The moth eggs begin to hatch in late May and the spraying must be completed by the end of June in order to kill all the insects.

The spraying mission will be a dangerous one. The pilots must fly over the rugged Rocky Mountain forests at from 50 to 300 feet above the trees, through canyons and over peaks. This is a land of dangerous air currents. A down draft might toss a plane into a jagged peak.

Heretofore forests had to be sprayed by ground crews, tree by tree. By plane, the spraying is many thousands of times faster. Six men in a ground crew covered two and a half acres a day, while a six-man plane and ground crew can cover 48,000 acres in the same length of time.

## The Geiger Counter

Since the atomic bomb was invented, there is frequent reference in the news to the Geiger counter—a tube which gives warning of the presence of rays from radioactive material. Few people, though, realize that the counter was invented almost 40 years ago. It has long been used for warning against "leaks" of possibly harmful rays from X-ray equipment, for



VINCENT RICHARDS—czar of professional tennis is shown on the right. With him is Tony Owen, president of the pro league.

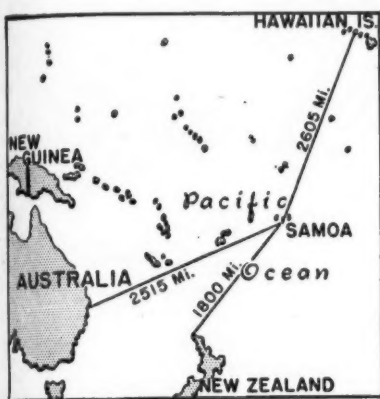


seeking lost pieces of radium, and for various industrial purposes.

The counter is a relatively simple device, and can be made for about \$5. As a danger indicator, it is indispensable in plants and laboratories where people work with atomic energy. If the atom ever becomes a common source of energy for our homes and factories, large numbers of the counters will be needed as safety mechanisms, to check for leaks of deadly radiations.

### One More Nation?

Between Hawaii and New Zealand, in the South Pacific, lie the Samoan Islands. Since 1899 the United States has governed the eastern group of the islands, which are known as American Samoa. We have used the group chiefly as a naval station. The inhabitants, a tribe of Polynesians, export copra (used for soaps) and tropical fruits.



THE SAMOAN ISLANDS, now controlled by the United States and New Zealand, have asked the United Nations for independence.

The other islands, making up Western Samoa, are governed by New Zealand, who took them over from Germany after World War I. Western Samoa is also occupied by a tribe of Polynesians—a tall, intelligent, and proudly independent people.

Recently the Western Samoans asked the United Nations for self-government. They want to unite with American Samoa as one nation. The American Samoans have not yet made their opinion known, but the request has been turned over to the UN Trusteeship Council. This is the first such request the Council has had.

### Prices Still Rising

The American people are still buying a tremendous amount of manufactured goods. Our nation's present record-breaking production of civilian items has not yet caught up with the demand for them. Under such a condition, prices rise.

A government agency recently reported that, with the exception of refrigerators and sewing machines, "more major household appliances of all kinds were produced and delivered . . . in the last half of 1946" than in any previous period of similar length. Meanwhile, the Department of Commerce says, "The price increases which have taken place since the middle of 1946 have been the sharpest in our history for any similar period of time."

A number of economists expect prices to start downward this summer. They warn that the longer prices con-

tinue to rise, the sharper will be their fall.

### Labor Problems for UN

Labor difficulties have hit the United Nations. When Secretary General Trygve Lie announced cuts in living allowances for UN employees recently, the workers objected in no uncertain terms. They called a mass meeting and not only demanded wage increases, but also criticized the Secretary General's whole handling of employee problems.

To Mr. Lie, who prides himself on his record of successful labor leadership in his native Norway, this was a bitter attack. He said he was always willing to negotiate matters concerning working conditions, and he urged the employees to remember their obligations to the UN. "I, as well as you," he said, "have only one duty—loyalty, obedience, and discipline to the United Nations."

Tempers had cooled within a short time after the meeting, but the employees were determined to follow through on their demands. They asked that Mr. Lie meet with a committee to discuss wages, employment contracts, the policy on dismissals, and other important issues.

### Prisoners of War

Although nearly two years have passed since Germany surrendered, the Allies still hold many German prisoners of war. During the early part of the Moscow conference, the leading representatives of Britain, France, Russia and the United States discussed these prisoners. Statements were given on the number which each member of the Big Four is holding outside Germany.

Secretary Marshall said that the United States has more than 15,000. Britain's Foreign Secretary Bevin reported that his country has about 435,000. According to Foreign Minister Bidault, France is keeping more than 600,000 German prisoners within her own borders and in North Africa. Figures on the number of German war prisoners in Russia came from Tass, the Soviet news agency. It announced that there are about 900,000 of them, although some foreign observers be-

lieve the figure is actually much higher.

In comparison with the hundreds of thousands held by other members of the Big Four, America's 15,000 seems quite small.

It must be remembered, of course, that Britain, France, and Russia need the labor of German prisoners more than we do. In those countries the prisoners are working to repair the damage done by the Germans.

To many people, it seems just that Germans are forced to help rebuild and restore the lands which they have wrecked. Others argue that the Allies, who harshly criticized Germany for using slaves from conquered lands during the war; should not keep Germans at enforced labor so long after the end of the conflict.

### Bob Hope, Inc.

Bob Hope, the radio comedian, actor, and author, is now a corporation. Making people laugh is big business.

The name of the "firm" is Hope Enterprises, Inc. This includes: Hope Corporation, which publishes his book, "So This Is Peace"; Hope Records, Inc., which handles his phonograph recordings. He has two movies which he has made jointly with Paramount Pictures—the latest one produced also with Bing Crosby.

In addition to these various interests, Bob Hope has one-sixth interest in the Cleveland Indians; part ownership of the Los Angeles Dons pro football team; and interests in a Cleveland metal products company, a soft drink company, and a California golf driving range.

Lester Town (Bob) Hope is the son of an English stonemason who grew up in the slums of Cleveland. He now earns \$10,000 a week on the radio and approximately half a million dollars a year for tours.

### Pronunciations

Mustapha Kemal—mōōs'tah-fah kuh-mahl'  
Higinio Morinigo—ē-hēn'yaw maw-rē'  
nē-gaw (g as in get)  
Salonika—sah'lo-nē'kah  
Bosporus—bōs'pō-rūs  
Istanbul—ē'stahn-bōōl'  
Smyrna—smūr'nah  
Bursa—bōōr'sah  
Ankara—ahng'kah-rah  
Geiger—rhymes with tiger



A WHALE OF A LOT of meat. Four hundred tons of whale meat recently arrived in Tokyo—a welcome dish for hungry people. The Japanese have long used whale meat as a food. It is said to taste like beef—we'll take beef.



THIS RUMANIAN BOY, in his rags and tatters, serves as another reminder of how fortunate American youth is today.

## Readers Say—

A reader recently said that the one-fourth of the national budget allotted for military expenses should be used for a more worthy cause—public health.

I would like to say that, if there is another war and our nation is not prepared, I am afraid there will not be very much public health. I believe in the old maxim, "It is better to have arms you don't need, than to need arms you don't have."

ROBERT H. GREEN,  
Oakdale, New York.

★ ★ ★

If we were to devote our efforts to finding the cause for the liquor problem, we would be able to accomplish something. In my estimation, there are two main causes for drinking in excess. They are unfavorable living conditions and a misunderstanding of society. The former includes slums, family troubles, and unemployment. The latter is nothing more than a lack of proper education.

To correct these unfavorable conditions I propose programs to improve our schools, improve housing, raise minimum wages, and improve family life. If we do these things we shall go a long way toward solving the liquor problem, as well as a multitude of other problems.

ART DIEDRICH,  
Avon, Minnesota.

★ ★ ★

The inference that the United States did not supply the Russian armed forces with most of their necessary war material was made by Edgar Snow in an article reviewed in THE AMERICAN OBSERVER recently.

This inference is in direct conflict with the statement of a former colonel who was one of the few Americans to examine the entire Russian front during the heaviest fighting. He found that Russian armies were being serviced almost 100 per cent by American-made lend-lease equipment.

EUGENE FARKAS,  
Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.

★ ★ ★

The recent attacks in Congress against David Lillienthal degenerated into a discreditable name-calling session, which seemed to stem from a political grudge. Mr. Lillienthal's appointment is a matter of profound importance to our national and international welfare. On such vital issues, our lawmakers should consider the merits of the case carefully, and should not engage in political bickering.

BILL HAMBLIN,  
Nevada, Missouri.



## Press Comment

(Continued from page 1)

America could be secure if aggression was halted in the New World, but that now, in the atomic age, we will be secure only if aggression is stopped everywhere.

The nationalists reply that communism in Europe does not now threaten us. They say that "all we need to do is to maintain a national defense capable of stopping any Russian aggression at our ocean outposts." Russia is so weak industrially that even though she obtains the secret of the atomic bomb, she cannot for many years build the necessary equipment to attack us. We could annihilate her at the start of any aggression.

The nationalists contend further that if we intervene in Greece, our action will lead to war just as our policy of giving lend-lease aid to the Allies brought us into war with Germany. They say that, though the United States can protect itself against attack from Russia, we would not be in a good position to fight Russia in Greece, which is near the sources of Russian power.

*The New York Times.* We are not saying that Russia should give up communism. Nor are we engaging in a campaign against communism. If the people of any country, of their own free will, should decide to adopt communism, we would not interfere.

### Policy Statement

All we are saying is that no nation should establish communism in another country by force. "We are going into Greece for the purpose of protecting the Greeks against external aggression, restoring their economic health, and enabling them to decide for themselves what kind of government and what kind of system they prefer."

"We . . . hold that by being firm and definite at this time, we are doing all we can to prevent a war which nobody wants and from which nobody could reap anything but catastrophe. We offer Russia a peaceful contest between the two systems, without force and on their merits. We make the offer now because a policy of drift might eventually render peaceful processes impossible."

*Washington Star.* The Truman policy will not lead us toward war, but away from it. The United States might have prevented World War II by stating in advance that if Germany started a war of aggression, we would immediately take sides against her. We did not do this. The Germans thought that we would not enter the conflict, so they started the war.

If Russia thinks that she can go ahead expanding without running the risk of our opposing her by force, she will follow the paths of conquest. If, for example, we stay out of Greece, she will go in. We will see eventually that her conquests are making her so strong that she can seriously threaten us. Then we will go to war but possibly too late. If, on the other hand, we let her know in advance that we will oppose further expansion on her part, she will give up her plans for aggression, rather than to challenge us by force.

*New York Herald Tribune.* Russia cannot reasonably object if the United States gives economic, or even military, aid to Greece and Turkey. She should



NATIONS FROM THE BALTIC SEA to the Mediterranean have come under Russian control and influence since 1939. The Western powers, led by the United States, want to prevent further extension of Russia's political power

not complain even though our purpose is to protect these countries against aggression and the spread of communism. Russia is doing more than that in the border states which are under her influence.

The Soviet Union has given aid and assistance to Poland, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, and other border countries. It is doing this for the purpose of supporting the communist regimes in those nations. President Truman does not challenge Russian power in these quarters. He has merely stated that there must be a limit to the further expansion of Russian power.

*Walter Lippmann.* President Truman asked Congress for assistance to Greece and Turkey in the form of money, supplies, equipment, and civilian and military personnel. He gave good reasons why this assistance should be given. One was humanitarian—the suffering of the Greek people should be relieved. Another reason was that the governments of Greece and Turkey should be strengthened so that they could repel attack. The interests of the United States would suffer if these regions should be invaded.

But since assistance to Greece and Turkey was all that the President really asked for, he should have stopped with arguments why this help should be given. He made the mistake of enlarging his policy and promising

that the United States would support free peoples everywhere who are resisting aggression.

There is no reason why we should, at present, agree to intervene all over the world in order to stave off aggression. If, later on, we should decide to take on such responsibilities, and if we should be prepared to do so, we could then make our declarations and carry them out. But to make sweeping promises which may or may not be kept in the future is a dangerous business.

*Max Lerner, in a "Town Meeting of the Air" broadcast.* Of the 250 million dollars which the President wants to spend to help Greece, only half of it, at most, will go to relieve the suffering of the Greek people. The rest will be used for military purposes. It will be used to support the Greek government of King George, a government which is unpopular with very many Greek people. Millions of dollars will be spent to help the King put down the armed opposition.

The Russians can convince large numbers of the Greek people that they are offered a choice between an undemocratic monarchy supported by the United States, and communism supported by Russia. If this appeal is made, many of the Greeks will choose communism. Therefore, our policy of assisting a discredited and

anti-democratic government in Greece will tend to encourage communism, rather than to discourage it.

The United States cannot establish peace, order, and strength in Greece by bolstering the King George government. UNRRA and the British have already put 700 million dollars into Greece and the country is weaker than ever. What 700 million dollars has failed to do, 250 million dollars more cannot accomplish.

*Fiorello La Guardia.* If the United States thinks that Greece is likely to be attacked, and if it wants that country protected from aggression, it should turn the problem over to the United Nations. That is what UN is for. It will never become a powerful international organization, capable of maintaining peace in the world, unless it is used in emergencies.

If, when trouble raises its head, the United States ignores the United Nations and undertakes to handle the job itself, what reason have we to expect that other nations will act differently. "The big question is: Are we, in the very infancy of the UN, to assume responsibility and to establish a policy of policing other countries in disregard of all provisions of the United Nations Charter?"

"If we rush into the Balkans with military personnel and with a definite (Concluded in next column)



(Concluded from page 6)  
announced plan of protecting the existing dynasty, of keeping the present king on the throne without the authority of the UN and in disregard of our obligations to other nations as a member of the UN, could not other nations then charge the United States with interfering, or even with menacing, the peace of that region of Europe?"

Erwin Canham, editor of the *Christian Science Monitor*. We should support President Truman's program. We should give aid and assistance to Greece and Turkey in order that they may be protected against aggression. But this should be regarded as but the first step toward a general program of justice and security.

After we have given emergency relief, we should support the formation of a really democratic government in Greece. Then we could truly say that we are not merely supporting any government which happens to be on our side, but that we are encouraging and protecting democracy against communism.

We should extend economic aid not only to Greece and Turkey but to the countries of Western Europe, which need to be strengthened if they are to stand out against communism and Russian influence. We should not undertake to do the whole job ourselves, but as soon as possible, we should bring in the United Nations and help to make that organization strong enough to protect weak peoples everywhere against outside attack.

Senator Arthur Vandenberg, Republican, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate. We should support President Truman in his insistence that we give support to Greece and Turkey so that they may be strengthened against attack. Congress should, however, be fully informed of all the problems which are involved in this program. Open hearings should be held so that the people may know what is going on.

### Outside Reading

"A Call for a New Birth of Freedom," *American Mercury*, March 1947. Outlines a democratic program which might be followed at home and abroad.

"The Question of Amending the Presidential Succession Act," *Congressional Digest*, March 1946. A study of present provisions and some suggested changes. Additional material on this subject can be found in *Congressional Digest*, January 1947.

"Message to the Eightieth Congress," by Elmer Davis, *Harper's*, January 1947. Pointing out some dangers in our Presidential succession laws.

"The Right to Strike," by Richard Danielson, *Atlantic*, February 1947. Discussing the nature of individual rights and obligations.



## Turkey's Role in the World

This Nation, Which Quickly Modernized Its Way of Life, Is Important to Other Powers Because of Its Location

LIKE neighboring Greece, Turkey is today a pawn in the great political chess game between the Soviet Union and the western powers. All are interested in her for the same basic reason—her location.

Turkey's land frontiers touch Greece, Bulgaria, Russia, Iran, Iraq, and Syria. Her sea boundaries are equally important. She controls the Dardanelles, the narrow waterway which helps to connect the Black Sea and the Mediterranean.

Russia has had a longing eye on the Dardanelles for some time, but the western powers have tried to keep her from extending her influence over this strategic passage. It is largely because we fear new Russian moves toward the Dardanelles that our government wants to strengthen Turkey through loans and other assistance.

An important geographical position is not Turkey's only asset. Her 294,000 square miles—an area slightly greater than that of Texas—include fertile farmlands and productive mines and factories. By encouraging the use of modern methods and machines, the government has increased the value of all the nation's resources in recent years.

Turkey's progress has been particularly striking in agriculture. Eighty per cent of her nearly 18 million people live on farms and the government has worked particularly hard to boost their productivity. The results have been impressive. Before the war, for example, cotton production was increased 300 per cent above the 1925 level.

Between 1925 and 1940, Turkey's

output of wheat and barley more than doubled, giving her a wheat crop as large as that of France and a barley crop amounting to five per cent of the total world supply. Potato production went up fivefold in the same period; beet sugar threefold. Corn gained almost 90 per cent and tobacco 35 per cent. No other country can boast such a rapid rise in its farm output.

The Turkish people have also made important strides in developing their mineral resources. Their country's coal mines now yield almost twice what they did 20 years ago. Copper production has gone from 600 to 11,000 tons a year. The Turks now produce 20 per cent of the world's chrome, and much manganese and emery.

As mining has improved in Turkey, new industries have sprung up. In the last 10 years, the country has become important for the manufacture of woolen and cotton yarns, paper, glass, and cement. Now the government is trying to push the development of steel mills, sugar refineries, soap factories, and chemical plants.

Turkey's fast advancement in recent years can be traced to the political changes which followed her defeat in World War I. At the time of her downfall in 1918, Turkey was a disorganized and backward country ruled by a Sultan. Defeat brought revolution, and the old government gave way to a new one led by Mustapha Kemal, later known as Kemal Ataturk.

Ataturk had established a dictatorship by 1924. Ruling with an iron hand, he set to work modernizing Turkey. He introduced western machines, methods, and customs on a broad scale. By the time of his death in 1938, he had completely changed Turkish life.

Turkey is still working toward the goals set by Ataturk. Modernization has come a long way, but it is not yet complete. Unfortunately, many of the dictatorial rules introduced by Ataturk still prevail. Elections are held, but the government restricts the people's freedom so that they do not enjoy real democracy.

Since Turkey did not enter the European war until it was almost over, she did not suffer nearly so much as many other nations did. But she had to keep a large and expensive army mobilized all during the conflict, and she has felt compelled to maintain this fighting force as a safeguard against possible Russian aggression. That is why she asks us for financial aid.

## Straight Thinking

By Clay Coss

WHICH of the two figures in the drawing below looks larger to you? Unless you have measured them, you will probably say the one on the left. But if you were to cut them out and match one against the other you would find that they are exactly the same size.

These two figures represent an optical illusion—they show how your eyes can play tricks on you. Did you ever stop to think that there are optical illusions of the mind as well?

Suppose you hear a bad report about a friend of yours. It sounds absolutely convincing. You feel that he must be in the wrong. Yet later on some new evidence crops up and you find out that the situation was not at all what you had thought at first. That's an example of how you can be deceived by circumstantial evidence.

It happens in connection with world affairs too. We often read newspaper reports which show some country or leader or political group in a bad light. "No doubt about it," we say to ourselves, and then start condemning the nation or individual or group which is under fire. But it may happen that later events prove us to be mistaken.

You don't have to be fooled this way, however, any more than you have to be taken in by an optical illusion. When confronted by the trick sketches, you can easily find out the truth just by measuring. When you run into a questionable situation,



Which is larger?

either in your own life or in world affairs, you can do the same thing—check and measure all the facts.

The straight thinker never makes up his mind on the strength of appearances alone. He knows that circumstantial evidence can be deceiving and he guards against errors in judgment by waiting until all the facts are in before forming his opinions.

William Cullen Bryant wrote his great poem *Thanatopsis* at the age of 18.

The average American family had 5.6 members in 1850 and only 3.8 members in 1940.

Much remains to be learned about this world and the people who live in it. For instance, only about two-thirds of the world's people have ever been counted by any form of census.

## YOUR VOCABULARY

In each of the sentences below, match the italicized word with the word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Turn to page 8, column 4, for the correct answers.

1. He has a *benign* (bē-nīn') attitude. (a) confused (b) uncooperative (c) bored (d) kindly.

2. A *cryptic* (krīp'tic) statement: (a) has a hidden meaning (b) is brief (c) is untrue (d) reports disaster.

3. If your brother says you have *feline* (fē'līn) characteristics, he means you: (a) are a criminal (b) are

very friendly (c) remind him of a cat (d) may be insane.

4. What are the *emoluments* (ē-mōl'-you-ments) of that office? (a) duties (b) pay and advantages (c) most difficult tasks (d) working hours.

5. He was *irate*. (ī-rāt) (a) surprised (b) angry (c) happy (d) quiet.

6. The job was performed through the efforts of *intrepid* (in-trēp'id) men. (a) fearless (b) industrious (c) wise (d) ambitious.

7. That is a *lucrative* (lū'kruh-tīv) occupation. (a) dangerous (b) difficult (c) unusual (d) profitable.



# Careers for Tomorrow—The Chemist

**C**HEMISTRY offers numerous opportunities for employment. There are teaching jobs in high schools and colleges, and jobs in many industries—the food, drug, and fertilizer industries, to mention only a few. Local, state, and federal governments employ chemists, and the entire medical world relies upon this profession.

While the field is broad, it is a difficult one to enter because of the high educational requirements. No student should expect to qualify as a chemist unless he has at least a college degree. His chances of finding good jobs, and his earnings, will be increased if he continues his study beyond the usual four-year college course. This education is expensive, but universities and industrial firms offer scholarships for the young scientist who has outstanding ability.

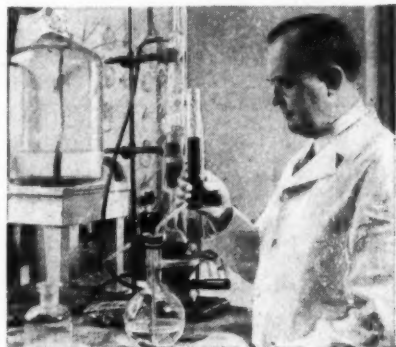
Educational requirements for the chemist are well defined. In high school he should concentrate on science and mathematics. In college he will specialize in chemistry. If he does postgraduate work, his study will consist of much original research.

Before he undertakes this extensive training, a prospective chemist must be sure he is qualified for the work. He should have a genuine love of science, an orderly mind, and a willingness to work long and hard at detailed experiments. One branch of the field, chemical engineering, also requires mechanical ability.

A student who enjoys science, but does not think he would like labora-

tory work, may make his career in related fields—as a secretary, salesman, or librarian with a chemical company. Newspapers often have positions for writers with a background in science.

Salaries for the chemist vary. Earnings of chemistry teachers are the same as those of other teachers, and are not generally as high as salaries for chemists in industry. To



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compensate for salary, teaching offers the chemist an opportunity to work with people, and it often gives him a chance to do independent research. Furthermore, the current trend is toward higher salaries for teachers.

Salaries of industrial chemists rose during the war, but they are expected to go down somewhat as the supply of trained workers increases. In peacetime, beginning salaries for the

chemist, like those for beginners in other professions, are not generally high. But the chemist, if he is competent, can look forward to steady increases in salary as he gains experience. The mediocre chemist, like the second-rate person in any field, cannot expect high earnings.

The work of the industrial chemist can be divided into three branches. First, there is the control chemist, who tests products—foods, drugs, or the water supply, for example—to see that they are kept at a fixed standard of quality. His job is more or less routine, but it is important.

Next there is the research chemist, who does original experiments. He may work on industrial products, or he may do abstract research and probe deeper and deeper into the basic principles of science. Then there is the chemical engineer. He bridges the gap between industry and science, and works out ways to manufacture chemical products on a large scale.

Most branches of chemistry are open to women as well as to men, and industry is showing an increasing appreciation for the work women scientists can do.

Your library will have books with information on careers in this field. A list of colleges recommended for their courses in chemistry can be obtained from the Secretary of the American Chemical Society, 1155 Sixteenth Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

By CARRINGTON SHIELDS.

## Study Guide

### Presidency

1. Describe the process by which a President is elected.
2. What would be done if a man who had been officially elected to the presidency should die before inauguration day?
3. How might a serious crisis develop if the President-elect and Vice President-elect should both die before taking office?
4. How is the vacancy filled under the present law if a President dies when there is no Vice President?
5. What probably would be done if a party's presidential nominee should die before election day?
6. Name some ways other than death by which a President may lose office before the end of his regular term.

### Discussion

1. If both the President and Vice President should die, would you favor (1) the present plan under which the Secretary of State would become President; (2) the proposal that the Speaker of the House occupy the White House in such a case; (3) a special election for the purpose of choosing a new Chief Executive? Give reasons for your answer.
2. If a question should arise about the ability of a President to perform the duties of the office, how do you think a decision should be reached?

### Foreign Policy

1. What are the reasons given for the statement that President Truman's program for aid to Greece and Turkey is an outgrowth of the Monroe Doctrine?
2. Why do some writers and newspapers contend that U. S. intervention in Greece will lead to war?
3. Why do certain commentators believe President Truman's proposed action would encourage communism in Greece rather than stop it?
4. What are the arguments Fiorello LaGuardia gives for turning the Greek problem over to the UN?
5. What is the general program which Erwin Canham, editor of the *Christian Science Monitor*, thinks we should undertake if President Truman's plan for Greece and Turkey goes through?
6. Tell how President Truman's present policy, if it had been in effect before the war, might have halted German aggression.

### Discussion

1. Do you or do you not think Fiorello LaGuardia's criticism of the President's proposals is justified? Uphold your position.
2. Which, if any, of the other criticisms of the President's plan do you feel are justified?

### Miscellaneous

1. Why are the rights of individuals in our democracy limited in some ways? Give five examples.
2. Since Turkey did not take an active part in the war, why is she in need of financial aid now?
3. What is France's plan for dealing with Germany's concentrated population?
4. Give a brief outline of three major German problems which the Big Four Foreign Ministers are now discussing in Moscow.
5. Who is our Ambassador to Russia?
6. What does the Department of Agriculture want to do in order to save a large tract of fir trees in Idaho?
7. What caused the revolt in Paraguay?
8. Name five subjects that have been dealt with in amendments to our Constitution.

### Answers to Vocabulary Test

1. (d) kindly; 2. (a) has a hidden meaning; 3. (c) remind him of a cat; 4. (b) pay and advantages; 5. (b) angry; 6. (a) fearless; 7. (d) profitable.

## Historical Backgrounds - - by David S. Muzzey

**S**INCE its adoption in 1789, our Constitution has been amended very few times. If we exclude the first 10 amendments, which were all added in 1791, only 11 changes have been made in the Constitution during the past 150 years.

The first 10 amendments are often considered as part of the original Constitution, for they were added within two years after its adoption. Taken together, these amendments are known as the "Bill of Rights" because they protect important civil liberties such as freedom of speech, press, and religion.

The next two additions to the Constitution were made a few years later. The 11th amendment, adopted in 1798, declared that no state could be sued in any federal court by a citizen of another state. The 12th amendment, adopted in 1804, made minor changes in the way members of the electoral college voted for the President and Vice President.

During the 100 years which followed, only three more amendments were added to the Constitution. All these came as a result of the War Between the States. The 13th amendment, adopted in 1865, prohibited slavery in the United States. The 14th, added three years later, made Negroes citizens and granted them certain civil rights. The 15th, adopted in 1870, gave Negroes the right to vote.

No further changes were made in the Constitution until 1913, when two amendments were adopted. The 16th amendment permitted the federal

government to collect taxes on incomes, and the 17th provided that U. S. Senators should be elected by direct vote of the people instead of by the state legislatures.

At the end of World War I, two more amendments were placed in the Constitution. The 18th or "prohibition" amendment forbade the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquor. The 19th amendment, adopted in 1920, gave women the right to vote.

The most recent changes in the Constitution were made in 1933 when



**OUR BILL OF RIGHTS**, the first 10 amendments to the Constitution, provides for freedom of speech, press, religion, and other priceless liberties.

two more additions were made. The 20th or "Lame Duck" amendment declared that the terms of U. S. Senators and Representatives would end on January 3 instead of on March 4.

Formerly, members of Congress who were defeated for re-election in November continued to hold office for the next four months, until March 4 when the new Congress met. Since

they had been defeated, these "lame duck" congressmen sometimes neglected their duties during this time.

The 20th amendment further provided that Congress should meet at least once every year, on January 3, and that the President should be inaugurated on January 20 instead of March 4. In addition, it stated that in case the President-elect should die before taking office the Vice President-elect should become President, and gave Congress the power to provide by law for other unusual cases.

The 21st amendment, also adopted in 1933, repealed the 18th amendment, which had been in force for nearly 14 years. This has been the only occasion in our history when an amendment to the Constitution has been repealed. It was also the only time that an amendment was ratified by special conventions, elected for that purpose in each state, instead of by the state legislatures.

Soon the nation may be called upon to decide whether another change should be made in the Constitution. Both houses of Congress have recently passed, by two-thirds majorities, a proposed amendment which would not let any President have more than two terms.

The Senate and House have not yet agreed on the exact wording of the proposal, so conferences are being held to iron out the differences. When agreement has been reached, the plan will be sent to the states for their approval. If it is accepted by 36 states it will become the 22nd amendment to the Constitution.